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ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

for

1948.

Public Health Officers



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ELLIS TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTORS

FRANK MARKLAND, M.S.I.A.

Cert. R.S.I. for Meat Inspection.

DONALD E. PARRINGTON, M.R.S.I.

Cert. R.S.I. for Meat Inspection.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Miss E. GREGORY.

Public Health Committee



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Councillor J. MASSEY.

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor R. SHAW.

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W. BRETT	P. HUGHES	C. ROWLAND
C. FLETCHER	S. LANCASTER	J. WALSH
W. J. GEORGE	S. LOVELESS	
O. HATTON	W. W. MASSEY	

Urban District Council of Atherton.

Public Health Department.

AUGUST, 1949.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Statistics of the Area.

Area—2,265 acres.

Population—Census, 1931...19,989.

Estimated population in the middle of 1948—20,700.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)—4,701.

Number of inhabited houses 1948—6,119.

Rateable Value (1st April, 1948)—£100,303.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£385.

Atherton is mainly an industrial area—the main sources of employment are found in—Cotton Spinning, Coal Mining, Nut and Bolt Works, Engineering, Manufacturing Chemists and Transport.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	307	167	140
	Illegitimate	9	6	3
	Total	316	173	143

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid 1947 15·2

		Total	M.	F.
Still-births	...	13	9	4

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 39·0

		Total	M.	F.
Deaths	...	209	110	99

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population 10·0

Mortality from puerperal causes—

							Death Rate 1000 (live and still) Births
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total maternal mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death-rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—							—
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total maternal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.							
All infants per 1,000 live births...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
,, Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
,, ,, (Non-Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
,, Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

It will be noted by reference to Table IX., that during 1948, the Birthrate suffered a considerable slump—being the lowest since 1939, although during 1947, it was the highest since 1920.

On the other hand, the Death rate of 10·0 per 1,000 population appears to be a record lowest death rate, although in 1928 the figure was 10·2.

It is very pleasing to note that not a single mother died as a result of giving birth to her baby.

The infantile mortality rate shows a welcome reduction, which brings it to within comparison of the record making year of 1945 when the rate touched 23 per 1,000 live births. This rate is considered to be one of the most important indications of a districts "health" in its widest sense, and to enable easy comparison with previous years, a histogram is included in Table X.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Previous to July 5th, 1948.

Hospitals for Infectious Diseases.

The Isolation Hospital at Astley was available for the treatment of Infectious Diseases, including Small-pox. This hospital served for eight constituent authorities and the governing body the Leigh Joint Hospital Board.

General Medical and Surgical.

The Hospitals in Manchester, Salford, Bolton and Leigh were available for cases from this area.

Maternity Cases.

These were admitted to Hospitals and Maternity Homes situated in Leigh, Bolton and Manchester.

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis patients were treated at the Dispensaries and Sanatoria of the Lancashire County Council.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Cases of this type were admitted to the Astley Sanatorium or the Hospitals of the Lancashire County Council.

Chronic Sick, Mental and Orthopædic.

The various hospitals of the Lancashire County Council were available for the treatment of these cases.

Venereal Diseases.

Bolton, Wigan and Manchester Clinics were available for this area.

Other Hospitals.

The Manchester, Salford, Bolton and Leigh Hospitals were available for children, also for eye, ear, nose, throat and skin cases.

There was also the Public Assistance Institution with a separate Infirmary within the District.

Average use has been made of the various hospitals, and there was no evidence of inadequacy.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a). For Infectious Diseases :—Cases removed by motor ambulances owned by the Leigh Joint Hospital Board.

(b). For Non-infectious and accident cases :—Removed by motor ambulances owned by Atherton U.D.C.

(c). For Maternity cases :—Removed by motor ambulances owned by the Atherton U.D.C.

The total mileage covered by the two ambulances up to July 5th was 16,938.

The ambulances carried the following cases :—

317 to Manchester.

355 to Bolton.

988 to Leigh.

49 to Wigan.

24 Miscellaneous.

Of this total 1,298 were sitting cases.

435 were stretcher cases.

Laboratory Facilities.

During the year, service was provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester and the Pathological Laboratory, Royal Infirmary, Bolton.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

This work is done by arrangement with the District Nursing Association. The duties are confined to non-infectious diseases. Midwifery is not undertaken. The Council contributed a sum of £50 per annum to the Association.

Since July 5th, similar facilities have been available, Hospital accommodation being provided by the Regional Hospital Board and ambulance facilities and home nursing by the Lancashire County Council.

5—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The town's water is derived in bulk from the Manchester and Bolton main supplies. Each house is connected to the mains and has its own internal supply of water of good quality which is maintained at constant pressure.

The water is bacteriologically examined and analysed at Manchester and Bolton at regular intervals. 69 samples being so examined during the year under review.

There is a slight tendency to plumbo solvent action, for which it is treated by the supplying authorities before delivery to our mains. The tin lining of all lead service piping is insisted upon.

Streams.

Streams within the district are examined periodically to prevent pollution. There are no dye or artificial silk works in Atherton.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage is of the type known as the Combined System. Extensions to include housing estates were made during the year. Sewage is dealt with by the Leigh Sewerage Board.

Sanitary Accommodation.

At the end of 1948, the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows, viz. :—

Number of Privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of closets attached to these middens	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	24
Number of trough closets	...	...	...	...	...	28 (at schools)
Number of waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	1112
Number of fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	...	6116
Number of dry ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of movable ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	6125
Number of houses on water carriage system	...	...	...	...	...	6061

Conversions during 1948 :—

Number of privy closets to pail closets	...	...	...	...	4
Number of waste closets to fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	5

The Council's scheme for the conversion of waste water closets was suspended by the Ministry of Health on the outbreak of war in 1939. Permission to resume the scheme has been sought but has been refused by the Ministry on the grounds that other building works must have priority.

Disinfestation.

10 houses were found to be infested with the bed bug and these were successfully treated with a 5% solution of D.D.T.

The furniture of prospective tenants is examined before being taken into Council houses. If necessary, infested articles are suitably treated to ensure that vermin are not transferred to the new house.

Scavenging.

Scavenging and removal of house refuse is carried out in a satisfactory manner by the Council. All premises are visited weekly for removal of house refuse, with the exception of three farms, where privies are emptied monthly.

Street sweeping is the responsibility of the Surveyor and is done by means of manual labour. The house refuse is removed by means of four motor wagons.

The refuse is disposed of at Millers Lane Tip, and the Ministry of Health regulations are carried out with respect to covering with soil, etc.

Factories and Workplaces.

These premises are inspected periodically, and the general condition is fairly satisfactory. Particulars are contained in Table V.

Swimming Baths.

The public swimming baths are owned by the Council, who have installed a modern filtration and chlorination plant. They are maintained in a most exemplary manner.

Samples of water taken from the plunge bath after a period of considerable usage, have on examination by the Public Health Laboratory, proved to be quite satisfactory.

All the water used for bathing purposes is drawn from the town's supply.

Schools.

The schools in the town are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition in respect to general structure.

The yard surface of some of the schools consists of cinders, with the result that they are dusty or muddy, according to the weather conditions. Physical training under these circumstances must be a disagreeable pleasure for scholars and teachers alike.

In three instances the lavatory accommodation consists of trough closets which are in urgent need of modernisation. No progress in this direction can yet be recorded. Small wonder that the rising generation should sometimes have bad hygiene habits.

The attention of the school managers has repeatedly been directed to these matters, but at this stage it would appear that the practical application of Health Education has no place in their curriculum.

Offensive Trades.

There are no premises of this nature in the town.

Houses let in Lodgings.

Three houses are registered for this purpose, and generally, are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Rag Flock Acts.

There are no premises in Atherton where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

4. (a)—HOUSING—STATISTICS.

		Traditional Permanent Houses.	Pre- fabricated Permanent
Number of new houses erected during the year :—			
(i) By the Local Authority	110	21	
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—	
(iii) By other bodies or persons	3	—	
 1. <i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :</i>			
(1). (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	673		
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1142		
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil		
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil		
(3). Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil		
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	479		

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 432

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—							
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—							
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

E—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding

(a). (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	No figures available.
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b). Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c). (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	...

4. (b). HOUSING CONDITIONS.

General Conditions.

As is usual with most industrial towns, there is in this district a large proportion of cottage property built in rows. The average age of this type is from 70 to 80 years, and their condition is moderately well maintained. Other property also in rows, of a better type were built about 40 or 50 years ago. A fair number of these are owner occupied and generally maintained in good condition.

Practically all houses erected since 1920 are of the semi-detached type.

There are no back to back houses in the district.

Sufficiency of Supply of Houses.

In common with most towns, the shortage of houses remains acute. At the end of the year there were over 750 applications for Council houses.

A scheme is in hand for the provision of a further 184 houses and 84 flats, and two further schemes for the building of 74 houses to be completed in the next year.

Fitness of Houses.

What has been said in previous years can be repeated yet again.

The general condition of housing in the town is fair, although the high cost of material and labour is combating the execution of other than essential repairs. As soon as circumstances permit, demolition of unfit houses will be resumed, but for the present, houses that under normal conditions would have been condemned as unfit by reason of disrepair or other cause, must continue to remain occupied.

5—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a). Milk Supply.

All farms and dairies within the District are inspected periodically. The farm buildings were found to be fairly satisfactory.

There are 19 farms in the area with an approximate total of 250 cows. There are also 49 milk shops which are registered for the sale of bottled milk only. One retail distributor was licensed for the sale of "Pasteurised" milk and 1 distributor licensed for the sale of "Accredited" milk.

18 Samples of milk were examined biologically for Tubercle bacilli :—2 samples were found positive and the necessary action taken resulted in the slaughter of the infected cows in one case, although in the other the source had been removed previously.

(b). *Bakehouses.*

22 Bakehouses are registered in the District, and are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

(c). *Food Adulteration.*

The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council.

6—CONTROL AND PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

A very mild type of Scarlet Fever has been wide spread over the town and neighbouring districts throughout the year - 104 cases being notified.

Diphtheria.

One case of mild Diphtheria was notified. This was in a non-immunised adult aged 21 who returned to the District on holiday already suffering from a sore throat.

Measles.

The expected biennial outbreak of Measles resulted in 364 cases— generally of a mild type, with few complications and no deaths.

Tuberculosis.

11 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 7 of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of the disease in any particular occupation, and it was unnecessary to employ the provisions of the Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925.

Food Poisoning.

There has been no outbreak of food poisoning.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the prevention of blindness.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year.

37 houses were disinfected after infectious diseases. Formalin being used for this purpose. Terminal disinfection following Scarlet Fever has been discontinued for several years.

Immunisation.

Special sessions for Diphtheria Immunisation were held at Clinics, Day Schools and the Day Nursery.

The number of children immunised up to July 5th, were :

1—Pre-school children	...	..	64
2—School children...	...	..	5
3—Reinforcing doses	...	...	2

The immunisation state of children at the end of the year was :—

Under 5 years of age	...	...	42%
Over 5 and under 15 years	...	...	76%

On July 5th, the Local Authority handed over the responsibility for the maintenance of Diphtheria Immunisation to the County Council. Fortunately, on account of previous close co-operation, the current scheme was continued and the general public were and probably still are, unaware of the change.

It is now accepted as beyond dispute that the scourge of diphtheria can be controlled by artificial immunisation. The accompanying histogram clearly shows the trend of the disease in Atherton. Up to 1938, it is seen that there were "good" years, unfortunately only to be followed by severe outbreaks and deaths. During 1938 a scheme for the immunisation of school children was inaugurated, when about 40% of this age group accepted treatment. The progress thereafter was tardy until 1941, when continuous propaganda and facilities commenced, lasting up to the present time. 42% children under 5 years of age and 76% children aged 5-15 years are now protected. If the town is to retain its present satisfactory relative freedom from diphtheria, the proportion of immunised children must be greatly improved upon—it is to be hoped that we do not have to depend on the real and actual fear of the presence of the disease to stir the more complacent parents.

7—HOME HELPS SERVICE.

The Council accepted delegated powers in October, 1946. The scheme was inaugurated in April, 1947, with the appointment of three Home Helps, and by 31st December, 1948, eight Home Helps were employed.

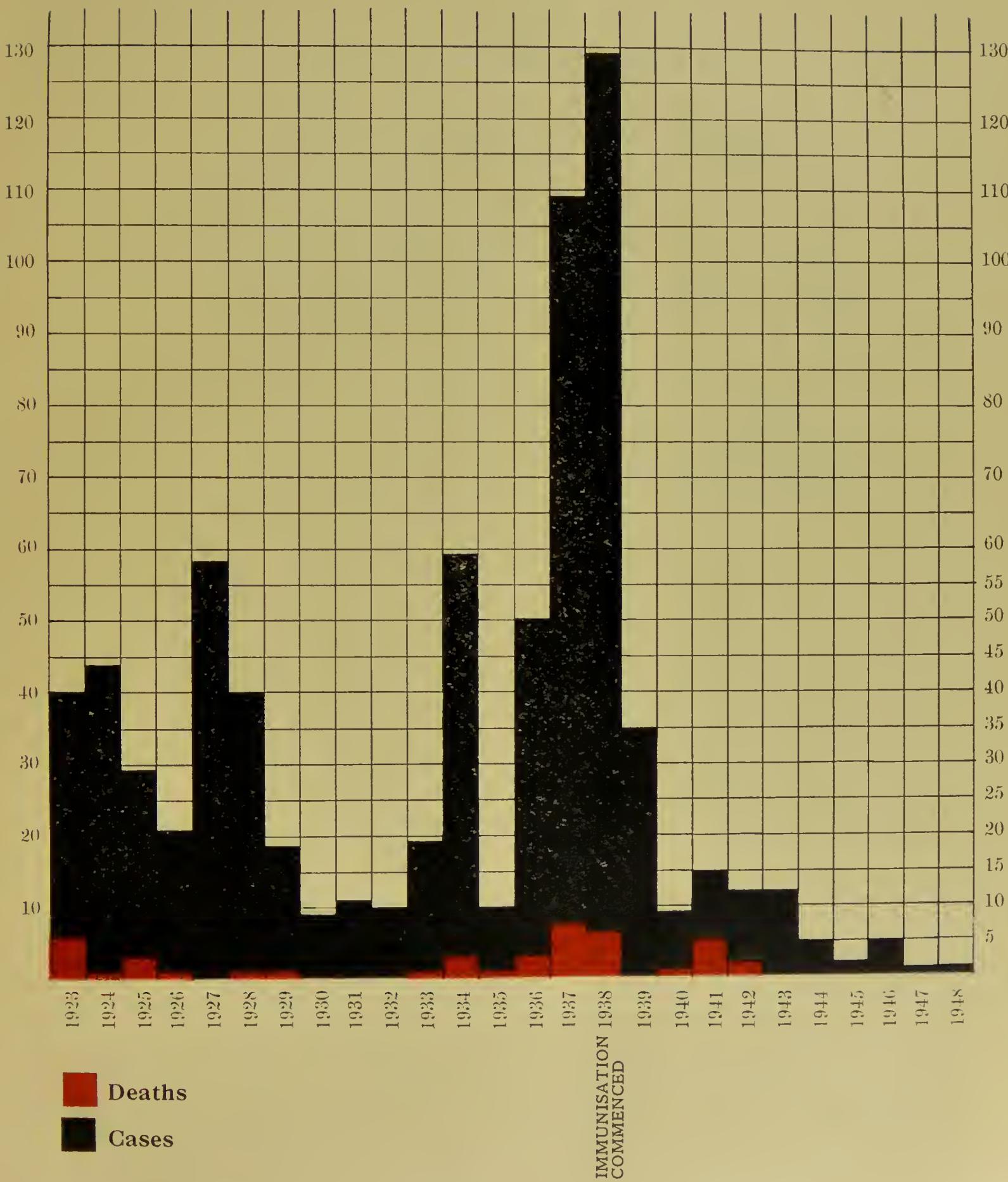
During this period the following individual cases were dealt with :—

(1) Maternity	...	...	24
(2) Sickness	...	...	11
(3) Aged and Infirm	...	...	31

This necessitated on an average each week, attendance at 30 cases, involving approximately 270 hours work. The scheme has been much appreciated by the householders and is obviously filling a much needed want.

Histogram showing Diphtheria trends from 1923.

DIPHTHERIA—Actual Deaths and Cases.



8--SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It has not been necessary to take any action under this Section.

Chief Sanitary Requirements.

The chief recommendations for improvement of the District are briefly :—

- (a). Provision of more houses.
- (b). Provision of more adequate public conveniences
- (c). Execution of private street works.
- (d). Conversion of waste-water closets.
- (e). Provision of weatherproof footpaths on Council estates.

Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report of the work done in the Public Health Department during the year 1948, together with particulars as to nuisances and defects found and abated.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Houses (including re-visits) ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1071
Newly infected houses ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	145
Schools ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	92
Factories and Workplaces ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	299
Bakehouses ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	274
Food preparing places ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	478
Shops ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	387
Dairies, Cowsheds, etc. ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	225
Miscellaneous ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	702
				Total ...	3668

and in connection with these inspections the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz. :—

		Found	Abated
House roofs in need of repair ...	... ...	73	71
Defective W.C's. ....	... ...	76	73
Choked or defective drains ...	... ...	51	49
Defective plaster of walls, etc. ...	... ...	98	96
Insanitary condition of yards..	... ...	10	10
House walls damp ...	... ...	65	63
Defective eaves gutters...	... ...	61	60
Defective window frames, sash cords, etc ...	... ...	33	33
Animals kept as to be a nuisance ...	... ...	21	21
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, burst pipes, etc.) ...	... ...	165	155
		653	631

Arising from these nuisances and defects the following notices were served, viz. :—

Informal ...	356
Statutory ...	47

HOUSING INSPECTION.

The inspection and recording of houses under the Housing Regulations have been suspended since the commencement of hostilities in 1939, as it would appear to be futile to compile records of overcrowding, unfit houses, etc., until more houses have been built to accommodate the families that would be displaced.

I estimate that there are over 70 houses in Atherton that require early demolition by reason of unfitness, and other demolitions would follow later.

Until Clearance Order procedure can be resumed, with the abolition of unfit and other sub-standard houses, and sufficient new houses are built for re-housing purposes, it is discouraging to all concerned to attempt to carry out much more than the general maintenance of a most unsatisfactory low standard.

The majority of the working class type of house (of which there are approximately 3,500 in the town) are let at rents averaging about 8/6 per week, including rates.

From this figure is deducted rates, property tax, ground rent, etc., with the result that the cost of repairs often exceeds the remaining balance.

In my opinion the difference between rent receivable and the costs of repairs and reasonable maintenance is a problem that should be considered by our legislators. As stated in earlier reports, it is illogical to suppose that rents stabilised in 1920 will pay for repairs and renewals at 1948 prices, particularly when it is remembered that many of the houses are nearly 80 years old.

The general defects consist of rising dampness, perished plaster, decayed woodwork of bedroom floors, windows, eaves gutters, etc., uneven and damp flagged floors, worn out kitchen ranges, etc. These houses are without hot water supplies and the usual amenities that are usually considered essential in modern practice. While in some instances considerable improvement could be effected without reconstruction, the cost would be prohibitive and the only practical solution is demolish the houses and start afresh. It is realised that wholesale demolition will be totally impossible for some considerable time, and I consider that some interim modification should be made that would enable owners to recoup the outlay required to bring these properties up to a better standard than that accepted in 1870.

I feel sure that a general improvement could be made if some scheme could be devised whereby property owners could receive State assistance towards the costs of maintaining these houses until new or better houses are available, but as matters now stand, many owners would be glad of the opportunity of demolishing some of their properties rather than be constantly confronted with repair bills that exceed the rents received.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

59 Smoke observations were taken during the year, but considerable difficulties were encountered due to inferior and unsuitable fuels, inexperienced stokers, "forcing" of plant, lack of replacements for worn out parts, etc., etc.

The local gasworks causes some nuisance by the emission of volumes of smoke during retort charging operations. The Council are anxious to abate this nuisance, but have not yet been able to find a satisfactory method of abating it.

Close co-operation is maintained with industrial firms in efforts to combat the smoke nuisance but it would appear that only slight improvements can be made until normal pre-war conditions again prevail.

The time allowed for the emission of black smoke is limited to 2½ minutes in any half hour.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

During the year two stations fitted with lead peroxide apparatus were set up at the Alder House and St. George's School sites.

The readings obtained during the five months the stations were in operation are as follows :—

		Alder House		St. George's School
August	...	10·6	...	20·50
September	...	21·70	...	26·30
October	...	21·75	...	38·41
November	...	27·66	...	58·46
December	...	24·75	...	47·93

The figures represent the amount of Sulphur Dioxide in milligrams present in the atmosphere coming into contact with a specially prepared material of an area of 1,000 sq. centimetres per day. By this method it is possible to estimate the amount of air pollution caused by smoke, particularly in relation to coal burning furnaces.

As will be seen from the figures quoted, the amount of Sulphur Dioxide present in the air in the neighbourhood of St. George's School, which is in close proximity to nut and bolt works, is considerably greater than that in the Alder House area, although the two stations are separated by less than $\frac{3}{4}$ mile.

Unfortunately, the deposit gauges which have since been placed in the same stations, were not delivered until late December, and no information is available for 1948 as to the quantities of soot, dust and other matter that were deposited in the respective areas.

It is hoped that with full records extending over a sufficient time, the Council will be able to focus attention on the smoke evil and direct public opinion to the need of purer air.

No doubt some difficulties will arise when considerable alterations to the existing furnaces and processes are required, but I am sure that much of the nuisance could be remedied if sufficient expenditure for the required improvements and alterations was forthcoming.

In the Bag Lane area alone there are over 30 chimneys used in connection with the forging of nuts and bolts. These chimneys, by reason of the peculiar construction of the hearths or furnaces seldom exceed a height of 20 feet. Forced draught is applied to the furnaces which are used for the heating of iron bars prior to forging, the flames being carried up the chimney along with iron scale from the bars being heated. As a result, quantities of soot, grit, oily and metallic particles are liberated at a low altitude into the atmosphere, and which fall in proximity to the works, creating a nuisance both to the householders in the neighbourhood and the town in general.

There is a constant haze in the area where these nut and bolt works are situated, and as the prevailing winds are from the south-west this haze and deposits are carried over the Hag Fold Housing Estate, where the Council have over 1,000 houses and a population of over 4,000.

PLACES UNDER INSPECTION.

The following is a brief list of works, etc., under inspection :—

Factories	....	....	....	....	87
Ice Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	25
Workplaces	....	....	....	....	75
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	22
Food hawking premises	....	....	....	....	5
Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	18
Milkshops (bottled milk only)	....	....	....	....	49
Food preparing premises	....	....	....	....	45
Fried fish shops	....	....	....	....	21

FOOD INSPECTION.

Premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of foodstuffs are inspected frequently, and are generally found to be maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition. Three bakehouses have been completely modernised, and the improvements incorporated enable a higher standard to be sought when dealing with the smaller bakehouses.

Premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice cream have been regularly visited and considerable improvements in the premises and the finished product have been effected. The "Codes of Practice" evolved by the Lancashire County Council have been adopted in order to maintain uniformity throughout the county.

There are 9 premises registered for the manufacture and 32 for the sale of ice cream.

Twelve samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue test, of which number 11 attained Grade I. The producer who failed to reach Grade I was visited and advised as to details, with the result that all subsequent samples reached the required standard.

Food hawkers and their premises are registered and are visited periodically. Generally these are quite satisfactory.

The slaughter-houses in the district are out of use due to the Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order, 1940, the slaughtering being carried out at centralised premises in Leigh.

MILK SUPPLY.

Routine inspection of Farms, Dairies and Milkshops was carried out during 1948.

One producer has carried out improvements to walls, floors, etc., at an estimated cost of £200.

The farms were kept in a fairly satisfactory condition, and the animals generally well groomed and cleaned.

The dairy cattle are now examined by the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Three farmers in Atherton hold licences for the production and distribution of "Accredited" Milk.

A few of the older farms still require improvements as regards window space, floors, etc., and it is hoped that these conditions will be remedied in the near future.

All the farms are connected to the town's water supply.

18 samples of milk were submitted for the presence of tubercle bacilli, 16 of which were found to be negative.

18 other samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and 17 of these were found satisfactory.

SHOPS ACT.

387 inspections of shops were made during the year, and the following works were carried out on preliminary notices being given :—

Repairs to W.C.'s.	....	....	....	....	....	11
Additional W.C.'s.	....	....	....	....	....	2
Improvements to ventilation	....	....	....	....	....	14
Improvements as to temperature	....	....	....	....	....	2
Improvements as to washing facilities	....	....	....	....	....	15

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

During the year, approximately 8,500 tons of house refuse was collected and removed by the use of four motor wagons. Disposal of the refuse was carried out by means of controlled tipping at the Millers Lane Tip.

Salvage of paper, metals, kitchen waste, etc., was maintained throughout the period, and the income from this source totalled £1,195.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

I am pleased to report that there appears to be a definite reduction in the number of houses infested with vermin. This improvement is probably due to the advent of D.D.T. and Ganimexane and that health education is slowly having the desired effect.

Ten houses (5 Council and 5 private) were disinfested during the year by means of 5% D.D.T. solution sprayed on walls, woodwork, etc. The spray is often implemented by removal of door and window casings, etc., and scorching with a blow-lamp all exposed affected surfaces, and consequently following up with the D.D.T. spray. This treatment has been found to give very satisfactory results.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The destruction of rats and mice was continued throughout the year at premises within the district.

All the sewers were treated twice, and the usual method of three days pre-baiting followed by poison bait was adopted. On each treatment this work necessitated the baiting of approximately 441 manholes in all parts of the district. Although the relative number of pre-bait "takes" was low (69, of which 3 instances only were complete "takes" recorded) poison baits were placed in the majority of manholes.

Sausage rusk formed the pre-bait, to which Zinc Phosphide was added for the poisoning.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the many kindnesses shewn to me during the year, and to the Staff who have given me every assistance in compiling this report.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. MARKLAND,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT.

TABLE I.

Causes of Death during the year 1948

Registrar General's Return.

CAUSE OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...
Measles	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...
Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...
Influenza	...	3
Syphilis	1	...
Cancer	23	21
Diabetes	...	1
Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions	15	9
Heart Diseases	28	22
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4
Bronchitis	11	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2
Peptic Ulcer, etc.	1	...
Appendicitis	1	...
Other Digestive Diseases	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	5
Puerperal Diseases	...	...
Other Maternal Causes	...	...
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c	3	3
Senility	...	...
Suicide	1	...
Other Violence	2	1
Other Defined Diseases	11	14
ALL CAUSES	110	99
Deaths of Infants under one year	Total Legitimate Illegitimate	5 5 ...

POPULATION—Middle of 1948 (Estimate)—20,700

TABLE II.
CULTURAL STATISTICS

FEMALE.		MALE.			
Live Births	...	TOTAL	...	...	...
Legitimate...	...	307	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	9	...	...	...
Total	...	<u>316</u>	...	...	<u>316</u>
		<u><u>316</u></u>			<u><u>316</u></u>
Still Births	...	...	...	9	4
Deaths	...	...	...	110	99
Deaths from Puerperal causes—					
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Total	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
		<u>...</u>		<u>...</u>	<u>...</u>
Deaths.					
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	28	...
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	29	...
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil	...
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	4.3
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	—
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—					
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...
PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.					
Live Birth-rate.	Crude Death-rate.		Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death-rate from Cancer.	Rate of Deaths under One year per 1000 live Births.
Mean of 5 years, 1943-1947	...	17.7	12.0	0.20	2.15
1947	...	19.7	13.3	0.24	2.22
1948	...	15.2	10.0	0.24	2.07
Increase or Decrease in 1948 on—					
Five Years' Average 1943-47	...	—2.5	—2.0	+0.04	+0.24
Previous Year ...	...	—4.5	—3.3	Nil	—5.00

TABLE III—Birth Rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1948.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

			England and Wales.	Great Towns including London	Pop. 25,000 at 1931 Census.	148 Smaller Towns and (Resident Admin. County	Atherton
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.							
Births							
Live Births	...	...	17·9(a) ...	20·0	19·2	20·1	15·2
Still Births	...	...	0·42(a) ...	0·52	0·43	0·39	0·62
Deaths							
All Causes	...	...	10·8(a) ...	11·6	10·7	11·6	10·9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough	...	...	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·01	0·00
Diphtheria	...	...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·00
Tuberculosis	...	...	0·51	0·59	0·46	0·63	0·24
Influenza	...	...	0·03	0·03	0·04	0·02	0·14
Smallpox	...	...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·00	0·00
Pneumonia	...	0·41	0·38	0·36	0·54	0·33	
Notifications (Corrected)							
Typhoid Fever	...	0·01	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·00	0·00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·03	0·03	0·00
Scarlet Fever	...	1·73	1·90	1·82	1·37	5·02	
Whooping Cough	...	3·42	3·51	3·31	3·13	1·30	
Diphtheria	...	0·08	0·10	0·09	0·10	0·04	
Erysipelas	...	0·21	0·23	0·21	0·22	0·00	
Smallpox	...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	
Measles	...	9·31	9·75	8·84	9·17	17·58	
Pneumonia	...	0·73	0·81	0·60	0·57	0·82	
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0·01	0·05	0·04	0·04	0·00	
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	
Deaths							
Rates per 1,000 Live Births							
All causes under 1 year of age	34(b) ...	39	32	31	28		
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3·3 ...	4·5	2·1	2·4	0·0		
Notifications (Corrected)							
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	6·89 ...	8·90	4·71	7·34(c) ...	0·0		
Maternal Mortality in ENGLAND AND WALES.							
		Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births		Rates per million aged 15-44			
			Atherton				Atherton
140 Abortion with sepsis	...	0·11	0·00	9	...	0	
141 Abortion without sepsis	...	0·05	0·00	4	...	0	
147 Puerperal infections	...	0·13	0·00				
142-146 148-150 Other maternal causes	...	0·73	0·00				
(a) Rates per 1,000 total population. (b) Per 1,000 related births.							
(c) In London Puerperal fever alone was 0·61							

TABLE IV.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year, 1948.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Deaths.	Cases removed to Hospital.		
	YEARS.															
	Total Cases at all ages.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over			
Smallpox ... ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	104	1	3	15	15	41	21	3	2	3	...	...	...	75	
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Enteric Fever ... ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	17	...	1	...	3	3	2	1	5	2	9	...	2			
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	4	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Erysipelas	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	2	...	...	2	
Measles excluding German Measles ...	364	12	37	55	65	67	118	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough...	27	6	3	5	8	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-encephalitis ... ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica... ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	527	19	41	64	88	84	164	32	6	8	7	10	4	9	86	

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	2	...	...	...
Females ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	3	...	...	...
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Females	4	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE V.

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

PREMISES.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	35	131	7	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	73	165	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	1	3	—	—
Total ...	<u>109</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>Nil</u>

2—Defects found in Factories and Workshops.

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found	Abated
Want of Cleanliness	5	5
Want of Ventilation	4	4
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	—	—
Overcrowding... ...	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation		
Insufficient	2	2
Unsuitable or defective...	5	5
Total ...	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>

TABLE VI.

Causes of Death during the year 1948
Distribution in Wards (Compiled Locally)

CAUSE.	North	East	South	West	Central	Sex		Total	Total Deaths in Hospitals (Inward Trans) M. F.	
						Males	Females			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2	1	...	2	3	5	1	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	3	3	2	1	...	7	2	9	2	...
Influenza ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	5	...	1	1	3	6	4	10	1	...
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	2	...	...	1	1	2	3	1	1
Heart Diseases ...	19	7	3	13	10	28	24	52	4	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	6	2	7	8	5	18	10	28	7	...
Arterio Sclerosis ...	2	2	...	...	1	2	3	5	1	1
Cancer ...	12	6	6	7	10	22	19	41	6	3
Prem. Births and Cong. Debility	2	1	...	1	...	2	2	4	2	1
Pregnancy Other Acc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis ...	3	2	...	4	1	5	5	10	3	1
Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	2	...	1
Diseases of Brain and Nerve	...	2	...	1	1	2	2	4	2	2
Violence (excluding suicides)	...	3	...	2	2	4	3	7	2	2
Suicides ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	4	4	...	4	1	5	8	13	5	6
Senile Decay ...	4	...	1	6	3	6	8	14	2	...
TOTALS ...	62	35	24	49	39	110	98	209	39	27

TABLE VII.

Causes of Death during 1948 according to age groups.

CAUSE	Under 1										Over 80	Totals	
	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-60	60-65			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	5
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1
Pneumonia	9
Whooping Cough	3	...	1	1	...
Influenza
Bronchitis	1	...	...	2
Other respiratory disease	2	1	1	10
Heart Disease	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	2	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c.	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	7	4	52
Arterio Sclerosis	2	4	1	2	28
Cancer	1	1	1	1	2	1	5
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	2	6	6	9	11	3
Prem. births & Cong. Debility	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	1	2	8	7
Pregnancy, other accidents	1	1	1	2	1	5
Nephritis	2	...	...	...	...	...	4
Appendicitis	1	...	...	1	1	1	10
Diabetes	2	...	...	1	2	1	3
Brain and Nerve Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	1	1	2
Violence, excluding Suicides	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	1	1	4
Suicides	1	2	1	...	1	1	7
Other defined diseases	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	1	3	1	13
Senile decay	2	2	4	6	6	14
Totals	9	1	1	2	2	6	7	25	24	18	23	40	29
													209

Note—Statistics compiled locally do not always agree with those of the Registrar General, who has facilities for further investigation.

TABLE VIII.

Infectious Diseases notified during the year ending December, 1948.

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

DISEASE	North Ward	East Ward	South Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	Sex		Total	Removed to Hospitals
						M	F.		
Smallpox ...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	32	10	20	35	7	48	56	104	75
Diphtheria ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	6	6	1	2	2	7	10	17	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	4	4	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Erysipelas ...	3	1	2	2	1	3	6	9	2
Measles ...	157	37	74	63	33	197	167	364	...
Whooping Cough ..	12	3	2	5	5	12	15	27	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	4	1	2	3	1	6	5	11	...
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2	...	3	1	3	4	7	...
Ac Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	217	62	101	114	51	277	268	545	83

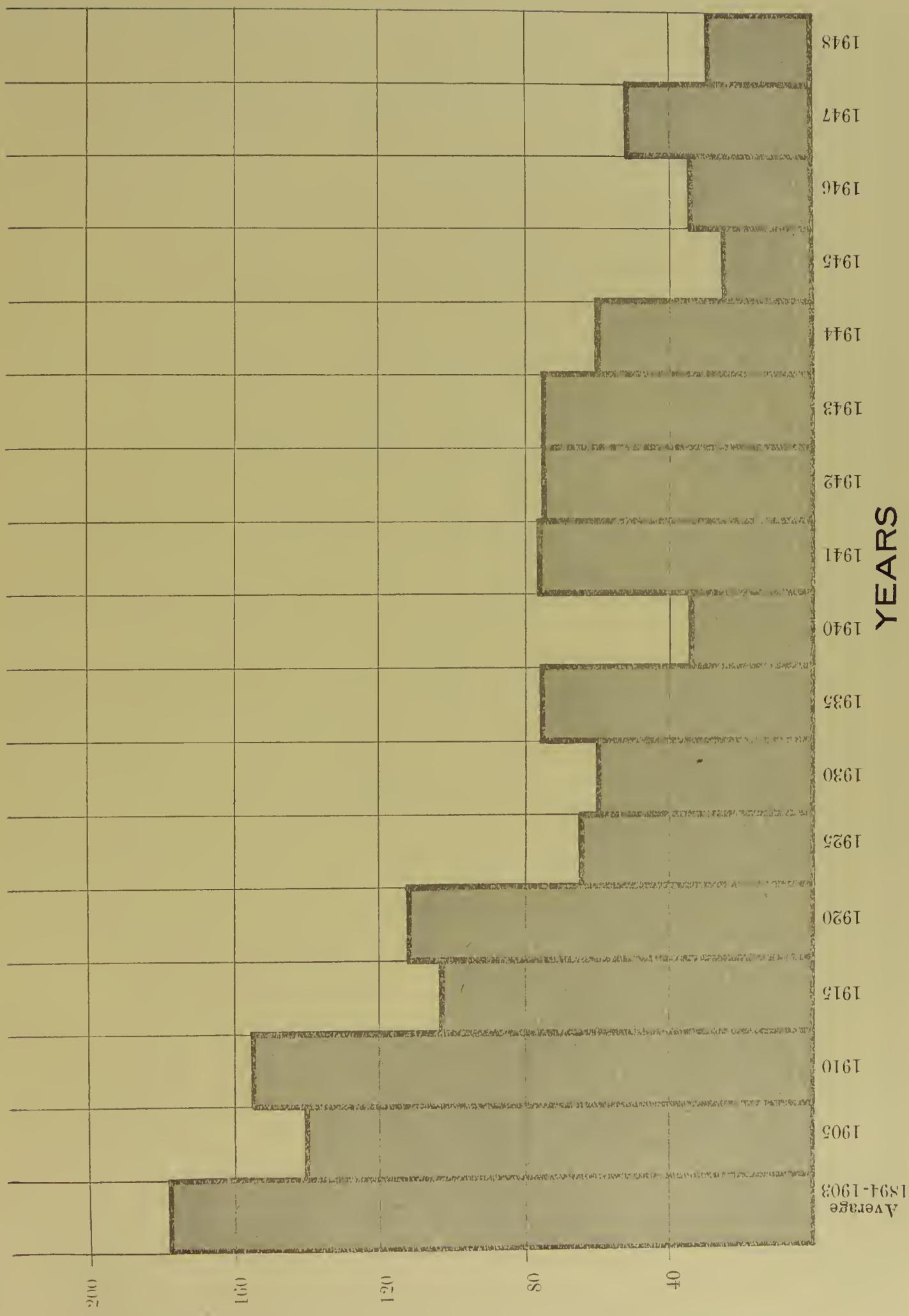
TABLE IX.

Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years

Year	Birth-rate	Death-Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate		Typhoid Fever Cases	Scarlet Fever Cases	Diphtheria Cases	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cases	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cases	Measles Cases	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years) Deaths
		Actual	Adjusted									
1900	36.7	16.49	16.16	13	29	3	9	—	—	—	—	14
1905	30.9	13.7	14.18	17	55	1	40	3	3	24	—	34
1910	26.47	14.67	15.41	19	88	—	20	2	2	36	—	15
1915	25.44	13.11	103.09	7	100	—	31	3	44	18	—	13
1920	24.1	12.1	109	2	49	24	24	—	25	15	23	9
1925	15.4	10.9	63	1	52	29	3	28	8	11	5	3
1930	15.3	10.6	61	1	42	8	—	18	6	15	4	5
1931	16.2	11.6	82	—	13	11	—	12	7	18	1	—
1932	15.4	12.6	108	—	68	10	20	11	9	4	—	13
1933	13.7	11.8	71	—	73	19	1	19	11	9	2	1
1934	14.5	10.5	11.9	67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1935	13.3	12.6	73	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1936	14.1	11.6	13.2	58	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1937	14.0	11.2	12.7	51	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1939	14.6	12.04	46	—	70	34	—	—	—	—	—	—
1940	15.5	—	35	—	88	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
1941	16.1	12.5	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1942	16.5	10.3	74	—	48	16	5	10	9	8	3	2
1943	18.2	12.8	74	—	49	12	2	10	3	7	—	—
1944	16.29	11.86	60	—	70	8	—	11	5	8	3	1
1945	17.2	11.3	23	—	42	2	—	9	4	8	2	2
1946	17.6	10.9	33	—	22	5	—	12	2	9	6	1
1947	19.7	13.3	50	—	79	1	—	11	7	—	—	1
1948	15.2	10.0	28	...	104	1	...	11	...	7	...	364

TABLE X.

HISTOGRAM SHOWING INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.



Draft Rate of Children under One Year per 1,000 Live Births.

